

Southwest workforce Board Meeting

September 10, 2014

Workforce Center, Cortez

Boards Members Present

Ed Morlan, Region 9 EDD

Carolina Perky, CO-DVR

Dennis Story, Montezuma County DSS

Ed Rice, REI

Keenan Ertel, Montezuma County BOCC

Tomas German-Palacios

Present via GoToMeeting

Breanna McClure, Double Tree Hotel

Sally High, Pagosa Verde

Gina Bradford, Bank of the San Juan's

Teresa Malone, Durango Education Center

Ex Officio:

Ray Lucero, Montrose Workforce Center

Chloe Wiebe, SW Workforce Center

Dawn Farrington, The Training Advantage

Guests:

Stephani Burditt, Region 9 EDD

I. Call to Order & Introductions:

Ed Morlan called the meeting to order at 10:38am. Board members and guests introduced themselves.

Linkage Updates:

Carolina Perky-DVR released 1500 individuals Statewide in the month of August. Individuals with Most Significant Disabilities are being taken off the wait list. Individuals with significant and other persons with disabilities are not being released from the wait list. Carolina has 26 cases in caseload ready to complete plans and moved to service status. Many new changes and implementation are happening for the Division. A Statewide Conference will be held in the Month of October.

Dennis Story- He is retiring at the end of October but is hopeful his replacement will continue to be on the SW Workforce Board. The Four Corners Character Council is partnering with Strata Leadership to change hiring and firing practices. As of now many employees are hired for competence and fired for character. They are hoping to focus training on character 1st in November or December. A-Game is working on this approach as well. A Strata Leadership brochure was passed out.

Ed Rice- Welcomed everyone to check out the new High School building located behind Walmart. Will speak further on this topic but A-Game statistics show that 89% of employees are fired because of will and only 11% because of skill.

Ray Lucero- September is Workforce Development Month. Customer appreciation for Durango and Cortez have been hosted by Chloe. There are job fairs and workshops set up for rest of the month as well.

Chloe Wiebe- One customer appreciation event held in this region was to provide hot dogs and Root Beer floats to customers who came to the Cortez or Durango Workforce Centers. The Durango Workforce Center is co-hosting a job fair with the Durango

Herald. There are other job fairs and workshops being held for customers across the region.

Dawn Farrington- Noticed in a Durango Herald article that Workforce Development classes are being offered through the FLC Continuing Education department, but couldn't locate information on FLC's website. She contacted Roger Zalneraitis, who is getting information. Ed Morlan added that there are tracks for employees and tracks for managers. There is a mini session sampler course being held on September 17th, which is by invite only.

Breanna McClure- November 15th is the Veteran's Stand Down in Durango located at the Double Tree. They are seeking employers to attend. Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and more.

Sally High- The 2014 Pagosa Verde Symposium, "Harvesting Renewable Energy to Benefit Sustainable Community Development," brought over 80 green energy experts to Pagosa Springs. Pagosa Verde's co-sponsors included Region 9, Vets to Farmers, Ecosphere Environmental Services, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, and CSU Extension. In addition to studying green energy development, participants learned from year-round greenhouse growers and discussed agricultural job training and locavore food production.

Ed Morlan- There is serious interest in the Bio-diesel plant for oil crushing, good potential for jobs. The Powerhouse Center is ramping up on the STEM program, should look into getting some of them on the workforce board. Patty Snidow will be meeting at the bank in Cortez October 14th or 15th.

II. Approval of Minutes

Keenan Ertel made a motion to approve the minutes from June 4, 2014. Ed Morlan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Sector Partnership Update:

Energy sector was re-launched on 10-09-2014. Crossfire and Conoco Phillips sponsored breakfast. Trying to move forward and overcoming obstacles were topics continued from the May 2013 meeting. Three committees have been formed- Talent, Communication and Infrastructure. The committee's goals are to provide more jobs and make the sector stronger to improve the health of the economy. It will be up to the committees to decide how to move forward. It was suggested the committees talk to partners and other employers in the industry to figure out what they need in order to move the industry forward.

It was mentioned that Kinder Morgan is working on a huge dome canyon expansion that will have an impact on labor. It is estimated to be an 18-24 month project. Kinder Morgan has posted jobs with the Workforce and utilizes the Workforce's assessments to prove individuals have some of the skills required for their job openings. Empire Electric has similar requirements before an application can be filled out.

An Agriculture Sector Partnership launched last winter. Advance Manufacturing is the third sector this region felt we could help strengthen. The launch meeting for

manufacturing will be held after full implementation of the Energy and Ag partnerships have occurred.

Board members felt internships on farms would be perfect for the internship program. Currently the two large Career Fairs held in this region have energy under agriculture. They plan to separate them into different categories for the next fairs so students can attend both. There are 2 students who are enrolled in Petroleum engineering that Jim McClain, with Montezuma County, has as part-time interns in his IT department. This has proven to be a benefit to both the students and Montezuma County. Two of his previous interns have already been hired elsewhere.

IV. New Federal Legislation- WIOA replace WIA

A brief overview of what Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will look like was presented by Ray and Chloe. President Obama signed into law the WIOA on July 22, 2014 and implementation will start July 1st, 2015. This Act will replace the Workforce Investment Act currently in place.

V. A-Game

*Handouts were distributed

Montezuma-Cortez High School has seen the value and the need of work ethics programs. The A-Game was selected to implement this program building wide. All students are receiving the curriculum for the 2014-2015 school year. The program will then be put into the freshman career pathways curriculum. In doing so, every student from M-CHS will have had work ethics training.

VI. Workforce Center Update

The numbers are pointing toward a better economy in the SW region. Job seeker numbers are down while open job positions are up. There is a lot of training coming up for WIOA.

With the new partnership of SCCC and Crossfire/Centerpoint to provide CDL training in the SW region, the WFC will have more referral options for job seekers. They plan to provide the CDL training in Ignacio and at SCCC's West campus to accommodate more individuals.

VII. Workforce Board Meeting goals and meeting schedule

Work Plan: the following five strategic objectives are targeted strategies that will help the Southwest WB implement its Work Plan and ultimately it's Mission. *It was suggested to work on the goals 1 at a time to determine how to meet these goals to make meetings more meaningful.*

- Increase value and relevance of Workforce Board meetings- *Linkages are critical.*
- Form a manageable board with specific, targeted representation.
- Identify 3-5 key ongoing activities/tasks that the WB wants to be known for accomplishing.
- Document what the WB's partnering agencies do and how they can help achieve WB goals.- Determine if the goals are still relevant. The strategy may need updating. Coordinating with CEDS to get resources together to form a directory.
- Utilize networking opportunities/methods to reach out to other potential partners who are not formal members of the WB.
- Review of WB meetings (location –GoToMeetings)- How often should the meetings be held? Currently they are every other month but once a quarter can be difficult to keep the board engaged. Some didn't think the virtual meetings worked, others like them better than traveling. It was suggested to meet 5 times a year and cancel the summer meeting. An email will be sent out to gather more input from the board.

VIII. Other

- Next Rural Consortium Board meeting will be in Grand Junction September 24-26, 2014
- Solicitation of agenda items for next board meeting
- Next Board meeting will be November 12th 10:30-Noon at either SCCC Mancos location or the Fairgrounds in Durango.
- Next WDN meeting- Suggestion: Panel of employers who have had interns-mentoring presentation- Looking for 8 participants, options are available, Pagosa Verde has and continue to have interns. Steve Britton at the La Plata Youth Services. Ed Rice to come up with topics to be discussed and then open up to a Q&A. Lunch to be sponsored by the school district.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

Minutes submitted by Stephani Burditt